

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:378
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2007
WELFARE SCHEMES FOR ARTISANS
Rawale Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Welfare Schemes being run for the handicraft artisans currently, State-wise;
- (b) whether any periodic evaluation of these schemes is done by the Government;
- (c) if so, the details and outcome of such evaluation carried out during the last three years and thereafter, State-wise;
- (d) whether any discrepancies have been noticed during these evaluations;
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government to rectify the same; and
- (f) the effective measures taken by the Government to ensure that the benefits of these schemes reach the targeted beneficiaries?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN)

- (a): The Welfare schemes being run in the entire country for the Handicraft Artisans include
- (i) Rajiv Gandhi Shilpi Swasthya Bima Yojana
 - (ii) Bima Yojana for Handicrafts Artisans. Since the schemes are not state specific, state wise data is not available.

Rajiv Gandhi Shilpi Swasthya Bima Yojana caters to the health care needs of the artisan family comprising self, spouse and two dependent children with a total cap of Rs.15000/- per year per family, apart from Rs. 1.00 lakh insurance cover for accidental death/disability of insured artisan. A general category artisan contributes Rs.200/- and those belonging to SC/ST Communities, BPL families and North Eastern Region contributes Rs.100/- towards annual premium, the balance premium alongwith applicable service tax is contributed by Government of India. So far 50,000 artisan families have been covered under the scheme.

Bima Yojana for Handicraft Artisans is being implemented through Life Insurance Corporation of India. The scheme provides for insurance cover for natural death (Rs.30,000); accidental death/permanent disability (Rs.75,000) and permanent partial disability (Rs.37,500) and scholarship to two children of the insured artisans @ Rs.300/- per quarter per child for their study from Class IX to Class XII. Out of the total annual premium of Rs.200, the Government of India contributes Rs.60; the LIC contributes Rs.100/- and the artisans contribution is Rs.40/- per year to avail the prescribed benefit. So far 3,13,214 artisans have been covered under the scheme. 689 claims amounting to Rs.1.44 crore were settled upto 31st March 2007 and 1633 scholarships amounting to Rs.19.60 lakhs were awarded.

(b) to (e): The Rajiv Gandhi Shilpi Swasthya Bima Yojana was launched only in March 2007 hence its evaluation at this stage shall not be appropriate and shall be done in due course. However, evaluation of the Bima Yojana for Handicraft Artisans is proposed to be undertaken in current financial year.

(f): The effective measures taken by the Government to ensure that the benefits of these schemes reach the targeted beneficiaries include mobilization through field formations and adoption of camp approach to spread awareness etc..